

# News from the FPPC



California Fair Political Practices Commission  
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## FPPC Enforcement Decisions: August 12, 2010

The following are enforcement decisions approved by the Fair Political Practices Commission at its regular monthly meeting held in Sacramento on Thursday, August 12, 2010. Decisions are listed by category and include a brief summary of each case and the total amount of any administrative fine or fines in each case.

Additional information on each of the enforcement cases below can be found in the August agenda on the FPPC website at [www.fppc.ca.gov](http://www.fppc.ca.gov). FPPC agendas are distributed and posted on the agency website 10 days prior to each monthly meeting.

The web version of the agenda includes links to the stipulations agreed to by the commission and by the individuals and organizations subject to the fines, or the default decisions proposed to the commission. Exhibits in support of the stipulations and proposed default decisions are also available on the website. If you are unable to access the FPPC website, or need further assistance, please call the FPPC communications office at (916) 322-7761.

### Campaign Reporting Violations

**Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee and William Guy Crouch**, the committee's treasurer, failed to timely disclose contributions received on pre-election and semi-annual campaign statements; failed to timely file two pre-election campaign statements; failed to timely file five supplemental independent expenditure reports; and failed to timely file seven late contribution reports. **\$36,500 fine.**

**Ralph Widmar, Ralph Widmar for City Council Committee, and Henry Ruhnke**. Ralph Widmar, a candidate for the Monterey City Council on November 7, 2006, his controlled committee, and the committee's treasurer, Henry Ruhnke, failed to disclose the total amount of expenditures made and required expenditure information for the reporting periods ending September 30, 2006, October 31, 2006, and December 31, 2006. **\$5,000 fine.**

**Nevada County Republican Central Committee and William K. Neuharth**, the committee's treasurer, failed to file three semi-annual campaign statements. **\$1,200 fine.**

**Friends of Terri Valladolid; Terri Valladolid; Elena L. Pascual, and Evita Valladolid**. Terri Valladolid, Governing Board Member of the Southwestern Community College Board, her controlled committee, and the committee's treasurers, Elena L. Pascual and Evita Valladolid, failed to timely file six semi-annual campaign statements. **\$1,200 fine.**

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### **Conflict of Interest Violation**

California law states that, absent an exception, a public official may not make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision in which he or she knows or has reason to know he or she has a financial interest. The following official made a governmental decision in which she had a foreseeable material financial interest:

**Jane Hopkins**, as a member of the Saratoga Cemetery District Board of Trustees, made a governmental decision when she voted not to build a chapel on the southwest side of Madronia Cemetery, which had a foreseeable material financial effect on real property she owned. **\$3,000 fine.**

### **Laundering Violation**

California law requires those giving or receiving monetary contributions of \$100 or more to affect the outcome of political contests to provide certain information identifying the contributor, their employer and the amount of the contribution. Providing the public with the sources of contributions is a fundamental component of the philosophy of the Political Reform Act. The following concealed the true source of campaign contributions:

**Serco Management Services, Inc.** is a service company providing infrastructure support services to state and local governments, including multi-million dollar contracts with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to provide parking services. Serco Management Services, Inc. was the true source of five campaign contributions totaling \$1,100, made to candidates for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors between June and October 2006. The contributions were made in the names of the company's employees. **\$15,000 fine.**

### **Lobbyist Violation**

California law requires individuals and entities that attempt to influence the actions of certain state-level elected officials and public officials to register as lobbyists once certain criteria is met. Once registered, lobbyists and lobbying firms are required to file reports to provide the public with information regarding who they are attempting to influence; what decision(s) they are attempting to influence; who is employing them; and how much they are receiving to influence. The following failed to register and failed to file the required forms:

**Norman Davis**, a private healthcare attorney, qualified as a lobbyist and a lobbying firm while engaging in legislative activities in 2008. He failed to file the required lobbyist and lobbying firm registration documents and failed to file periodic statements disclosing legislative activity as a lobbyist and as a lobbying firm. **\$3,500 fine.**

### **Mass Mailing Violations**

California law requires a candidate or committee that sends over 200 substantially similar pieces of mail in a calendar month to include specific information about the candidate or committee. The following did not include the required information:

**Raj Abhyanker and Committee to Elect Raj Abhyanker for Cupertino City Council.** Raj Abhyanker, a candidate for Cupertino City Council in the November 6, 2007, election, and his controlled committee caused to be sent just weeks prior to the election, mailers opposing another candidate, Mark Santoro, which failed to identify the senders of the mailers. They also caused to be made a cash expenditure for the mailer and failed to properly disclose other payments in connection with Raj Abhyanker's candidacy in the November 8, 2005, and November 6, 2007, elections. **\$15,000 fine.**

**Chris Prentiss.** During the late reporting period before the 2008 election for Malibu City Council, Chris Prentiss made independent expenditures totaling at least \$8,400 in support of one of the candidates. The independent expenditures included payments for at least two mass mailings. He failed to file late independent expenditure reports and caused the mass mailings to be sent without proper sender identification information. **\$9,000 fine.**

**Lewis and Company, Inc.** is a political consulting firm located in West Covina, California compensated for services involving the planning, organizing, or directing of any activity regulated or required under the Political Reform Act. Lewis and Company, Inc. was compensated for the planning, organizing, or directing of the designing, printing and posting of mass mailings in connection with its political consulting services for Rosemead PRIDE Citizens Action Committee. They purposefully or negligently caused, or aided and abetted, Rosemead PRIDE Citizens Action Committee to send two mass mailings opposing the proposed petition to recall two Rosemead city council members, which failed to display the required sender identification. **\$7,000 fine.**

### **Statements of Economic Interests Violations**

California law requires elected officials, certain board members and governmental employees, and consultants employed by governmental entities to complete and file Statements of Economic Interests (SEIs or Form 700s). SEIs serve a dual purpose: they make a filer aware of personal economic interests relative to a governmental decision, and they are an important disclosure document for the public and media.

The following individuals failed to file their Statement of Economic Interests forms on time:

**Stephen Laymon**, a member of the Atwell Island Water District, failed to file a 2007 annual Statement of Economic Interests and a 2008 annual Statement of Economic Interests. **\$5,000 fine.**

**Kristin Franklin**, a former member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, failed to file a 2006 annual Statement of Economic Interests by the April 2, 2007, due date, and failed to file a 2007 annual Statement of Economic Interests by the April 1, 2008, due date. **\$4,000 fine.**

**Raymond Jones**, California Board of Registered Nurses committee member, failed to file an assuming office Statement of Economic Interests by the November 2, 2006, due date. **\$2,000 fine.**

**Brett Davis**, a member of both the Mobilehome Rent Review Commission and the Resource Conservation Commission of the City of Chula Vista, failed to timely file a 2006 annual Statement of Economic Interests. **\$400 fine.**

**Daniel Bernhard**, Board Member, Ross School District, failed to file a 2008 annual Statement of Economic Interests by the deadline of April 1, 2009. **\$1,000 fine.**

**Jill Sherman-Warne**, Commissioner, California Native American Heritage Commission, failed to timely file a 2007 annual Statement of Economic Interests. **\$800 fine.**

**Gopal Chaturvedi**, a former member of the California Respiratory Care Board, failed to file a 2008 annual Statement of Economic Interests by the April 1, 2009, deadline. **\$200 fine.**

The following individuals failed to include all economic interests that were required to be disclosed in the Statement of Economic Interests:

**Jeffrey Wang**, Associate Professor and a principal investigator with the University of California, Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine, failed to disclose on his Statement of Economic Interests, the non-governmental funding sources providing grants for medical research he conducted at UCLA. **\$10,500 fine.**

**Pam Slater-Price**, San Diego County Supervisor, failed to report gifts of tickets on her 2006, 2007 and 2008 annual Statements of Economic Interests, valued in total at \$1,292. **\$2,000 fine.**

**Richard Ramirez**, a member of the Norwalk City Council, failed to timely report all incomes received from business entities on his 2007, 2008, and 2009 annual Statements of Economic Interests. **\$600 fine.**

**Mark Melville**, a former City of Gustine council member, failed to disclose an investment and income from Strategic Consulting Group on both his 2005 annual Statement of Economic Interests and his leaving office Statement of Economic Interests filed in 2006. **\$400 fine.**

**Evelyn Fullmore**, City of Commerce Director of Library Services, failed to disclose on her 2009 annual Statement of Economic Interests a gift of travel from the Embassy of Spain valued at \$1,641. **\$200 fine.**

**Gary Svanda**, Madera City Councilmember, failed to disclose on his 2008 annual Statement of Economic Interests a gift of travel from the Fortfork Mono Indian Tribe, in connection with testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs valued at \$2,160.99. **\$200 fine.**

**Keith Webster**, Anderson City Councilman, failed to timely disclose the River Run Cove Land Development Company as a source of income on an annual Statement of Economic Interests for the reporting period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. **\$200 fine.**

#### **Major Donor Violation**

A major donor is a person or entity who makes contributions totaling \$10,000 or more in a calendar year and is required to file campaign reports detailing how much was contributed and to whom. The following failed to file major donor and late contribution reports as required by law:

**Coalition of Jim Gonzalez**, who qualified as a major donor committee in the first half of 2008, failed to timely disclose eleven contributions, totaling \$76,303.65, to Yes on Proposition 7 - Californians for Solar and Clean Energy, a Coalition of Climate Scientists, Consumer, Environmental and Community Leaders in 2008, and a \$2,000 contribution in 2009. **\$1,926 fine.**

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